

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

13 FEB 1981

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This acknowledges your letter of 7 January 1981 in which you asked for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Specifically, you requested information regarding certain events in Albania between 1945 and 1953: viz., "information on attempts by the U.S., U.K., and other western countries to infiltrate intelligence agents and potential guerrillas into Albania."

I must advise you that the fact of the existence or non-existence of any documents which would reveal a confidential or covert CIA connection with or interest in matters relating to those set forth in your request is classified pursuant to Executive Order 12065. Further, the fact of the existence or nonexistence of such documents would directly relate to information concerning intelligence sources and methods which the Director of Central Intelligence has the responsibility to protect from unauthorized disclosure in accordance with subsection 102(d)(3) of the National Security Act of 1947 and section 6 of the CIA Act of 1949. Accordingly, pursuant to exemptions (b)(1) and (b)(3) of the FOIA, your request is denied to the extent that it concerns any such documents. By this statement we are neither confirming nor denying that any such documents exist.

Insofar as this response constitutes a denial of your request, the denying official is Mr. Gerald Liebenau, the DDO Information Review Officer. As provided for under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, you have the right to appeal this decision by writing to the CIA information Review Committee, in care of me, stating in full the basis of your appeal.

Sincerely,

John E. Bacon

Information and Privacy Coordinator

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Enclosure

Washington, D.C.
24 April 1981

Mr. John E. Bacon
Information and Privacy Coordinator
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Bacon:

On 17 January 1981, I filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request with the Agency for information regarding "the attempts by the U.S. and other western countries to infiltrate intelligence agents and potential guerrillas into Albania in the period 1945-1953." I pointed out that this entire operation had been compromised by a Soviet agent in British intelligence, Kim Philby, and consequently was fully known to both the Albanians and their then Soviet bosses. On 13 February 1981, I received a denial of this request in entirety from Mr. Gerald Liebenau, the DDO information review officer.

After careful review of my sources, I am persuaded that the release of most of the information on this three-four decade old project would in no way impair the security of the United States nor threaten the negligible current Agency operations in Albania. The situation is basically that our nation's enemies already have this information, either from Philby or from the captured would-be infiltrators, so there seems little justification for denying it to Americans.

I am willing to modify the request to this extent: I do not want nor need the names of still-serving Agency personnel, nor those of allied countries; and I believe I already have the names of most of the Albanians involved in the operation, whether captured or survivors, so there need be no threat to any of these men or their relatives still in Albania.

Mr. Bacon

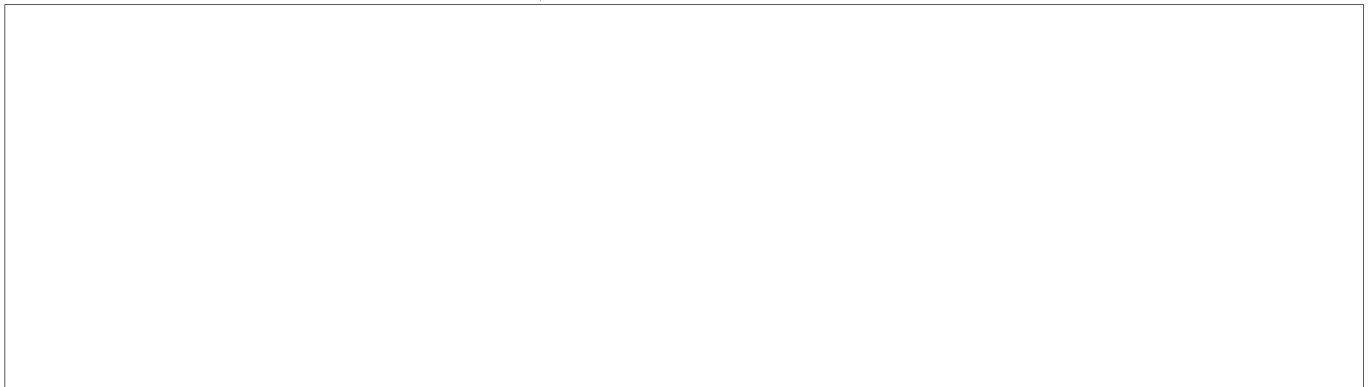
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Secondly, I have no desire to interfere with CIA's relations with brother intelligence agencies abroad and therefore do not seek documents prepared solely by British intelligence.

Otherwise, I restate my original request in full. I would certainly be amenable to working out appropriate terms and conditions for my access to this material, to preserve whatever confidentiality any of this material might still warrant. This seems preferable to an item-by-item review by a federal judge in camera, with specific reasons for the Agency's denial of each bit of data, for that is the alternative.

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I would appreciate an early and favorable response to this request.

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